

Appl. No. 09/879,242

Amdt. Dated June 15, 2004

Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2004

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A multimaster bus system, comprising:

a bus;

a plurality of units configured to be connected via the bus;
and

a default master ~~that is~~ selected from the plurality of units according to a dynamically modifiable default-master stipulation⁷, the default-master stipulation being based on variable criteria selected from the group consisting of:

when each unit of the plurality of units accesses the bus,

how often each unit of the plurality of units accesses the bus, and

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how long each unit of the plurality of units accesses
the bus.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A multimaster bus system,
comprising:

a bus;

a program-controlled unit needing bus access;

a plurality of units configured to be connected using the
bus; ~~and~~

a default master selected from the plurality of units
according to a dynamically modifiable default-master
stipulation configured to select the default master from the
group consisting of:

a particular one of the plurality of the units expected
to need to access the bus frequently, and

a particular one of the plurality of units expected to
need to access the bus rapidly; and

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the default-master stipulation being based on an analysis selected from the group consisting of an analysis of an actual program cycle of the program-controlled unit and an analysis of an expected program cycle of the program-controlled unit.

Claims 5 and 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for operating a multimaster bus system, which comprises:

providing a bus and a plurality of units configured to be connected through the bus;

selecting a default master from the plurality of units according to a default-master stipulation that can be dynamically modified; and

in the default master stipulation, selecting the default master based on criteria selected from the group consisting of:

when the plurality of the units are used on the bus,

how often the plurality of the units are used on the bus, and

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how long the plurality of the units are used on the bus;

and

varying the criteria upon which the default master
stipulation is based.

Claims 8-12 (canceled).

13 (currently amended): A method for operating a multimaster bus system, which comprises:

providing a bus to connect a plurality of units;

selecting a default master from the plurality of units according to a dynamically modified default-master stipulation that selects, based on an analysis selected from the group consisting of an analysis of an actual program cycle in a program-controlled unit needing bus access and an analysis of an expected program cycle in the program-controlled unit, the default master from the group consisting of:

a particular one of the plurality of units expected to need to access the bus frequently, and

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a particular one of the plurality of units expected to
need to access the bus rapidly.

Claims 14-16 (canceled).